



ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

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EMERGENCY AWARENESS BULLETIN

To: All District Supervisors, Inspectors, Analysts and Instructors
From: Accident Investigation - OMSL
Date: April 9, 2008

EAB-08002 - Kentucky Serious Non-Fatal Accident No. 1

At approximately 5:15 PM, on March 28, 2008, a roof bolter operator was seriously injured in the OMSL Martin District. The victim was twenty-three (23) years old with three and a half (3½) years of total mining experience – six (6) months experience as a roof bolter operator. He had worked at this mine for four (4) months.

While roof bolting, a piece of drill steel became fouled in the hole. The drill steel and bolt wrench were tied together with a nylon rope (cable hanger). In an attempt to retrieve the drill steel, the victim placed his left hand near the area where the rope was located and engaged the rotation of the bolter head. The metal hook of the cable hanger caught the victim's glove and his left arm was detached below his elbow. The arm was surgically reattached and the victim is recovering from his injury.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:

1. There are several conditions that can cause drill steel to be fouled in the hole (cracks, weak suction, worn bits, dampness, misalignment of hole).
2. When cracks are visible in the roof, be aware of the possibility they may extend into the borehole area.
3. After rotation of the drill steel is started, avoid contacting the steel with you hands.
4. If the drill steel cannot be removed safely, report the condition to your supervisor.
5. Do not attempt to secure the drill steel to the bolt wrench with ropes, chains, wire or similar material.